

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-05 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

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R 111045Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1134

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0582

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EIND CY TU

SUBJ: CYPRUS MINING CORPORATION (CMC)

1. SUMMARY: CMC REPORTS AUTONOMOUS TURKISH CYPRIOT ADMINISTRATION (ATA), BACKED BY TURK MILITARY, TOOK CONTROL OF CMC'S XEROS INSTALLATION FEBRUARY 7 "TO SAFEGUARD FROM LOOTING". CMC PLANNING TO REMAIN NON-OPERATIONAL INDEFINITELY. END SUMMARY.

2. ROSS JENNER, SENIOR CMC REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT ON ISLAND, INFORMED EMBASSY FEBRUARY 11 THAT TURKISH AUTHORITIES TOOK PHYSICAL CONTROL OF CMC'S XEROS INSTALLATION ON FEBRUARY 7. CIVILIAN OFFICIALS CAME TO XEROS BEARING ORDER FROM ATA MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INFORMED TURKISH CYPRIOT EMPLOYEE OF CMC THAT INSTALLATION WOULD HENCEFORTH BE UNDER ATA PROTECTION TO SAFEGUARD AGAINST LOOTING AND ILLEGAL SALE OF MATERIAL. OFFICIAL REFUSED TO SHOW CMC EMPLOYEE COPY
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OF ORDER. PROTEST BY JENNER WAS TO NO AVAIL. SHORTLY

THEREAFTER, TURKISH ARMY PERSONNEL TOOK UP POSITIONS IN AND AROUND INSTALLATION, AND SINCE FEBRUARY 7 CMC HAS BEEN DENIED ACCESS TO AREA.

3. CMC XEROS INSTALLATION INCLUDES ORE PROCESSING MILL, WAREHOUSE FOR SPARE PARTS, WORK SHOP, PIER AND LOADING INSTALLATION ON WATER, APPROXIMATELY 1,500 TONS OF COPPER, APPROXIMATELY 350,000 TONS OF PYRITE ORE AND 40,000 POUNDS OF FUEL (DIESEL AND GASOLINE).

4. JENNER SAW ATA VICE PRESIDENT (GOC MINISTER OF DEFENSE) OSMAN OREK FEBRUARY 10 TO PROTEST SEIZURE. OREK CONFIRMED THAT SEIZURE AUTHORIZED BY ATA MINISTER OF FINANCE BUT DECLINED TO GIVE JENNER COPY OF OFFICIAL ORDER.

5. JENNER ALSO INFORMED EMBASSY THAT CMC IS AWAITING GOC DECLARATION THAT CMC IS "WAR AFFECTED INDUSTRY" WHICH WILL ALLOW CMC TO LAY OFF SEVERAL HUNDRED EMPLOYEES REMAINING ON ITS ROLLS. CMC HAS NOT OPERATED SINCE AUGUST 14, 1974 BUT HAS KEPT REDUCED WORK FORCE ON DUTY WITH SMALL RESIDENT FOREIGN STAFF. ONCE CYPRIOT EMPLOYEES ARE DISCHARGED, CMC PLANS TO GO INTO MOTHBALLS INDEFINITELY OR, POSSIBLY, SIMPLY ABANDON CYPRUS OPERATION FOR GOOD.

6. FOR DEPARTMENT: EMBASSY'S COPIES OF ALL CABLES CONCERNING CMC SINCE SEPTEMBER 1974 HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. PLEASE AIR POUCH COPIES OF ALL THOSE DEALING WITH CMC-ATA PROBLEM IN SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1974 TIMEFRAME.
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